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MEMORIAL NUMBER.

Parties wishing to send to friends in this country the illustrated memorial number of THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN can have copies wrapped, postpaid, and mailed, by furnishing this office with name and address, at five cents per copy.

Charging on barbed wire fences shows the nerve and pluck of the administration.

Parliament will be prorogued on Friday, and then the campaign will fire up in lurid brightness.

So great an engineer as M. de Lesseps ought to be able to shore up the stock of the Panama Canal Company.

The ravages of cholera in Spain are increasing. The daily list of deaths equals the number of men killed in a large field engagement.

The question in New York is whether to build a Grant monument of moderate cost in this century or a more costly one in some other century.

The English people appear to take hold of "a campaign of filth" with more zeal and alacrity than was ever displayed in a similar enterprise in this country.

The government of Franz Josef is so strong that it is not perceptibly shaken even by the awful wrath of Senators Beck and Colquhoun over the Keiley affair.

The capture of the Gamecock by the Yantic recalls those glorious days when the Tallapoosa was sinking schooners and scattering fishing smacks all along the North Atlantic coast.

Since Don Quixote's great field engagement with a windmill there has been no more entertaining fight than the one just opened between Gens. Robert Tombs and Fitzhugh Lee.

There are a number of able Democratic politicians in Washington who are willing to back their opinion that the forty-ninth Congress will not suspend coinage of the silver dollars.

"Is the disposition of office every element of the party should have its fair proportion," says an esteemed western Democratic correspondent. Does this include the criminal element?

It is not an exceedingly suggestive fact that the Latter Day Saints persist in believing that a Democratic administration must necessarily be impeded to make trouble for polygamists?

The Virginia bourbons have begun to back down on their platform, but that structure is of such immense area that they might keep on backing till election day without fear of stepping off.

It is reported from Albany that President Cleveland has assured Gov. Hill that the administration does not intend to meddle in the New York campaign. Such a decision, if made, is wise.

Judge Thomas essayed the impossible when he undertook to be both a civil service reformer and a Democrat at the same time. He should have given alternate years to the two inharmonious undertakings.

If Secretary Endicott can inaugurate a plan that will make details of army officers satisfactory to their brothers officers, he will do what no one of his distinguished predecessors has been able to accomplish.

Secretary Whitney's determination to get up the plans for his new cruisers without any advice or assistance from the corps of steam engineers gives rise to the suspicion that he means to secure "the highest attainable speed" by the use of the Keiley motor.

Gen. Robert Tombs credits West Point with the destruction of the confederacy, because Jefferson Davis "filled commands with West Pointers." Let this be accorded to the credit of the United States military academy.

Representation in Congress based on citizens who are cheated of the right of suffrage is a serious menace to the stability of our government. It is a greater wrong than any for which this country has ever made war on a foreign power.

The New York Democratic state committee will meet at Saratoga on the 18th instant to arrange for the state convention. These brethren are neither hopeful nor harmonious. A well conducted Republican campaign will be successful.

The colored woman of Nashville, Tenn., who, in order to get revenge on an infant's mother, forced it to swallow concentrated lye, and poured that liquid over its body, is such a dangerous bipedal animal that she should be expunged as soon as the law can get in its work.

The Philadelphia Times pertinently suggests that "the patriotism of New York might find a commendable vent for the money made out of the Grant funeral by the erection of an unequalled monument to the hero's memory. But that is not the way they do things in Gotham."

A decent regard for the opinions of mankind demands the removal of the newly-appointed postmaster at Meridian, Miss. His name is J. J. Shannon, and he edits the *Meridian Mercury*, in which paper he printed a brutally coarse and slanderous article on Gen. Grant soon after the closing scene at Mount McGregor.

Maine papers complain that the saloon keepers of their state have gotten more than their fair proportion of postal appointments. It is probable that liquor selling is still numbered among the great industries of Maine. And this is the

reason why Gen. Dow has moved by the right flank, in solid column, over into the Democratic camping ground? "Whither are we drifting?"

THE IMPENDING CONFLICT.

It is evident that the civil service law is a source of profound dissatisfaction to a numerous, noisy, and not unimportant element of the Democratic party.

Democratic state conventions do not endorse the law nor the theory which it embodies. The Democratic press of the United States is almost solid against that theory. In New York a strong effort is being made to have the law condemned in the Democratic state convention. In Ohio the same scheme is being vigorously worked, and there is a strong probability that, when the Democratic party meets to formulate a platform and name candidates, the anti-civil service faction will be in majority, and will put into their constitution of principles a plank denouncing the civil service statute, the commission, and all things thereto pertaining.

Among the thousands of Democratic politicians, including senators and representatives in Congress, who have visited this city since the new administration came in, it has been next to impossible to find anybody who has had a good word for this law. On the other hand, there is not a corridor in any department building, not a lobby in any hotel in Washington that has not echoed with contemptuous and bitter denunciation of the civil service law from the lips of Democratic notables. No other theme has been so much discussed, no other thing has been so much denounced.

Perhaps there is no other newspaper which more clearly recognizes the tendency of Democratic sentiment on this subject than the *New York Star*, and it is certain that no other paper gives such clear and forcible expression to that sentiment. In an editorial commenting on a paragraph in the speech of Mr. Curtis at the annual meeting of the Civil Service League in Newport last week, the *Star* says:

What ground is there for the ingenious exaltation of the civil service reformer? What possible significance can be attached to the fact that President Cleveland executed the Pendleton law? Is it his duty to do this, and he doubtless well disposed toward the civil service theory. But herein does he represent his party? On the contrary, it is his great point of variance with his party, and it is notorious that the chief discontent which has arisen in the Democracy since Cleveland came into office has been due to this cause and no other. That discontent is perhaps less than it was a month or two months ago, but the change is due not to any growing love for the civil service delusion, but to the increasing rapidity with which Republicans are turned out and Democrats put in. The work is slow enough still, to be sure, and there is much grumbling about it; yet there is hope for the civil service reformer in the fact.

If the law is to stand it must be defended by the Republican party and a contingent of the Democracy. That it ought to be preserved, not as the sum of all good in civil service reform, but as a step in the right direction, we have no doubt. There have been mistakes in some of the details of the work performed under this law, as was but natural, yet, on the whole, its results have been good. It has elevated the tone and increased the efficiency of the public service. It has accomplished much of the good that its advocates predicted, and it has significantly failed to bring forth the evil results that were predicted by its enemies. If it has not proven a panacea it has certainly come to be regarded as a safe and reliable specific.

There is little room to doubt that, with the opening of Congress, war on the civil service law will begin in both ends of the capitol. In the editorial from which we have quoted above the *Star* says:

The civil service reformers are much mistaken if they imagine that the Democratic party at large finds any new charm in competitive examinations and permanent Republican tenures. The Democratic party is not a party of reform. It is a party of reaction. It is a party of the past. It is a party of the future. It is a party of the present. It is a party of the past. It is a party of the future. It is a party of the present.

We have no doubt that such a movement will be made, and a repeating bill may possibly pass the House, although we incline to the belief that it will not get more than a hundred votes in that body. In the Senate about twenty-five votes can be mustered for the repeal of the act.

But wait till the Republicans get back into the government, if they ever do. Then their earnest love for civil service reform will be amply illustrated. Democratic officials will be magnanimously dealt with when the Lozano and Conners, the Frye and Hubbell return to power.—*New York Star*.

In view of the fact that Democrats were appointed to office in very considerable numbers during the last year of the Republican ascendancy, the *Star's* talk is nonsense. There was no Democrat of any considerable influence in either house of Congress who did not get some of his Democratic proteges into the departments. These appointees were not counted by units or tens, but by hundreds. Many of them held good positions, and some of them were promoted by Democratic influence over the heads of more experienced and competent Republicans. So far as the departments in this city were concerned the Republican party was not proscriptive, but exercised a very liberal spirit toward the opposition.

The high license law passed by the Wisconsin legislature at its last session has been in operation three months and shows very satisfactory results. It is reported that in 100 towns there has been a decrease of 267 in the number of liquor shops and an increase of \$224,000 in the public revenue. Crime has also diminished. Even better results than these are shown in other states under the operation of similar laws.

The splendid corn crop of this year means a good deal more than a full supply of whisky. It means that all hog products will be abundant and cheap, that beef will be well fattened, that food for horses will not be exorbitantly high, and that wheat will not be permitted to unduly exalt itself by reason of its scarcity.

A correspondent of THE REPUBLICAN who signs himself "Hooker" asks us to suggest subjects from which he can select a theme for a comic opera. It strikes

PROFITS OF THE PLATFORM.

THE MONEY PAID LAST YEAR TO HEAR STARS OF THE LECTURE AND LYRIC STAGE.

"The largest home a lecturer ever drew," said Maj. Pond, "was when Beecher lectured in the Chicago Tabernacle a few winters ago. The receipts were \$4,000 and the prices were 50 and 75 cents. I remember the circumstances well. They were quite unusual. A South Park minister, with a big debt on church, wrote me for Beecher's terms. I replied that they were \$1,000 for a city like Chicago. The minister had scraped together that much money and decided to risk it. He hired the hall for \$400, paid \$1,000 for Beecher's services, and \$500 more for managing the lecture, and advertised extravagantly. When we arrived in Chicago and was told what he had been doing, I thought he was a fool. But he was not. He was a man who helped his loss money with such reckless management." Well, night came and along with it came through after, through the tabernacle contained nearly 8,000 people. The venturesome minister cleared \$1,800, enough to pay his church debt. And he had sense enough not to enter into the amusement business again. He probably would have lost as much money as he made."

"Next to Beecher, Mark Twain is the most profitable speaker I know of. He cleared \$27,000 in sixteen weeks, in his venture with Cable last season, after paying the latter \$2,000 per week. He made 10 per cent. of the gross receipts for doing the managing. All this talk, by the way, about any falling out between Twain and Cable is the veriest of non-sense. Twain and Cable were as good as friends. Twain did not do much for Cable next season. He is the most prominent delineator in America, and will make a fortune on the platform. Another successful lecturer is Talmage. He cleared \$10,000 in sixteen weeks, in his venture with Cable last season, after paying the latter \$2,000 per week. He made 10 per cent. of the gross receipts for doing the managing. All this talk, by the way, about any falling out between Twain and Cable is the veriest of non-sense. Twain and Cable were as good as friends. Twain did not do much for Cable next season. 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